

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1846 without my signature.

This bill would only create more confusion of governance in the existing education system, if the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) is the authority for provisions related to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the State Board of Education (SBE) is the authority for all other federal programs. In addition, this bill would undermine the authority of the SBE.

Moreover, California has already submitted applications for various programs and received funding under the NCLB Act. This bill may force California to revise and resubmit current applications in order to meet the provisions of this bill, potentially jeopardizing receipt of federal funding.

This shift in authority proposed by the bill would also limit statewide public input. Although the SPI is an elected official, I believe it is important for education stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members – to have an official venue for public testimony. The SBE holds public hearings on various K-12 education issues throughout the state for issues to be appropriately heard and considered.

For these reasons, I am unable to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger